REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the Remarks submitted herewith.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakai et al. (US 5,166,085) in view of Takahara (US 6,219,113). For an obviousness rejection to be proper, the Examiner must meet the burden of establishing that all elements of the invention are disclosed in the prior art; and that the prior art relied upon, coupled with knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated the skilled artisan to modify a reference or combined references. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In Re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970); *Amgen v. Chugai Pharmaceuticals Co.*, 927 U.S.P.Q.2d, 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1996).

Claims 1-8 include the following limitation: "a part of the pixel electrode is cut by a laser in the vicinity of the contact connecting an electrode of the thin film transistor to the pixel electrode to separate the contact from the pixel electrode and to thereby darken the corresponding pixel." The combination of Wakai and Takahara do not teach or suggest that limitation.

In response to Applicants' previous response, the Examiner has now cited Wakai as teaching "a pixel electrode 110 formed on an insulating layer 108; the insulating layer formed on a thin film transistor; the pixel electrode connected to the thin film transistor via a contact hole through the insulating layer." However, Wakai does not remedy the other deficiencies of Takahara.

Takahara only describes that the thin film transistor is either destroyed or separated from the pixel electrode, and does not teach or suggest cutting a part of the pixel electrode in the vicinity of the contact. In particular, Takahara describes that the YAG laser light directly destroys the TFT 155, which cuts off the TFT 155 and the pixel electrode 14 from each other.

Moreover, obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the

knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992); MPEP § 2143.01. In this case, one skilled in the art would not combine Wakai and Takahara to produce the claimed invention. In fact, Takahara teaches away from Applicants' claimed limitations because Takahara specifically teaches to destroy the thin film transistor.

Claims 1-8 require that a part of the pixel electrode is cut by a laser in the vicinity of the contact, which connects an electrode of the thin film transistor to the pixel electrode. The cut is made to separate the contact from the pixel electrode and to thereby darken the corresponding pixel. As explained on page 8, line 29 of the specification, the location of the cut is important. When the TFT 24 side portion alone is cut, no effect is exerted in the case of the occurrence of a bright point by short of the SC line 34 and the polycrystalline silicon layer 20. Therefore, it is important that the pixel electrode 28 side portion of the contact 26 is cut.

Thus, because Wakai and Takahara do not teach or suggest cutting a part of the pixel electrode and it is not obvious from either of the disclosure of Wakai and Takahara to cut a part of the pixel electrode, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Iizuka et al. (U.S. 6,515,720). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the * * * claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

The Examiner asserts that Iizuka discloses "that when the short circuit occurs, a pixel including the short-circuit defect can be improved to a half-lighted state (i.e., darken) by radiating a laser beam to the wiring portion to electrically cut it."

Claims 1-8 include the following limitation: "a part of the pixel electrode is cut by a laser in the vicinity of the contact connecting an electrode of the thin film transistor to the pixel electrode to separate the contact from the pixel electrode and to thereby darken

the corresponding pixel." As such, the claims require that it is a part of the pixel electrode that is cut by the laser. Iizuka does not disclose that limitation.

At column 8, lines 8-28, Iizuka teaches that when a short circuit occurs between the storage capacitance line 52 and the storage capacitance electrode 61, a laser beam is radiated to the exposed part BOX of the second coupling portion BOB from the rear surface of the array substrate 86 to electrically cut the part 80X. Iizuka does not teach or suggest that a part of the pixel electrode 53 is cut. In fact, when looking at Figure 3, the cut does not occur anywhere near the pixel electrode. Iizuka explains that it is the storage capacitance line 52 that is electrically cut from the storage capacitance electrode 61.

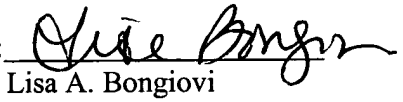
Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, Iizuka does not disclose all of the limitations of claims 1-8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 

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